SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, for the last four days. Mr. Speaker was saying that he will give ruling on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can meet the speaker and ask him to give his ruling at an early date. Mr. Rudy, please sit down.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, the matter is so important that I can not leave it undecided . . .*(Interruptions)**.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rudy, Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Enough is enough. Please sit down.

[Translation]

No body is hearing anything.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The name, I am now calling, will go on record.

14.21 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to provide telephone facilities in rural area of Bhilwara, Rajasthan early

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Ministry of communications towards the installation of telephone exchanges in 36 villages in the rural areas of my parliamentary constituency, Bhilwara. There is a demand to instal telephone exchanges in 36 villages. Requisite fees alongwith applications from for about 25-50 applicants have been deposited in the telecommunication department for providing telephone facilities in each villages. But due to non-installation of telephone exchanges then are not provided.

Hence, I request the Hon. Minister of communication to provide telephone facilities in the above rural areas early and to provide equipments for telephone exchanges. We can speed up the economic and social development in the country by providing infrastructure facilities.

* Not Recorded.

(ii) Need to release funds to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the drought affected people of the State

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, Their is seven drought in Raipur district and its adjacent districts in Madhya Pradesh. The poor and the farmers living in the area have been badly affected by the drought. Orrisa is also affected by drought. The Central Government have provided assistance there. The drought affected districts of Madhya Pradesh are adjacent to Ornsa.

I therefore request the Central Government to release the amount of Rs. 100 crore as demanded by the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for taking relief measures.

(iii) Need to start work on Yamuna Action Plan

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandani Chowk – Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, the Government had formulated Yamuna Action Plan to clean the Yamuna river, but no effective steps is being taken so far in this regard and River Yamuna is getting polluted day by day. The Government had announced many a times to clean this river and to save it from getting polluted.

Religious sentiments of crores of people of the country is hurt as a result of delay in cleaning the Yamuna river. Therefore it is essential that Central Govt. should take immediate concute steps to save the river from pollution and implement the scheme that was evolved for cleaning the river.

I demand from the Govt. to take immediate concute steps in this regard so that river can be saved from pollution.

[English]

(iv) Need to Release Remaining Amount Under Watershed Scheme to Kakinada Parliamentary Constituency (Andhra Pradesh)

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (Kakinada) : Sir, day by day, the environmental pollution is increasing and, at the same time, the diseases are increasing. The population is also increasing. The Government has to provide some kind of livelihood to the people affected by them. To solve these two problems, the Government has introduced watershed scheme. The main purpose of this scheme is to grow mango trees, cashew trees and other trees on the tops of the hills. In my constituency, trees are planted on many tops of the hills. Many people, who were given land *pattas*, come forward to plant the trees on the tops of the hills. They have already put in Rs. 36 lakh worth of labour force and other inputs but the Government has released only Rs. 6 lakh. So, the remaining amount may also be released to help the poor people.

[Shri T. Gopal Krishna]

I also request the Union Government to extend the watershed scheme to more places and increase the facilities and give help to the under privileged.

[Translsation]

(v) Need to amend suitably the environment laws so as to ensure implementation of development projects

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Whardaga) : Consequent upon the Supreme Court's decision on conservation of forests, the very continuance of the projects in Vananchal region in Bihar is in trouble. The people have to suffer from their basic facilities. Permission for the schemes pertaining to roads, canals, telephones lines, water supply and electricity lines passing through the forests are not being accorded. Forest is a nature gift to mankind, and its conservation is our duty but forest conservation Act is becoming a curse for Vananchal region. All the developmental work become stand still.

I, therefore request the Government to make environmental Laws flexible for the developmental schemes, so that implementation of these schemes could be ensured.

(vi) Need to re-open spinning mill, Marella Akbarpur in Ambedkar Nagar district, U.P.

SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Marella Akbarpur spinning mill where lock-out has been continuing since 11th June 1990. Our district Ambedkar Nagar is already a backward one. There is only one industry in the district and even then lock-out has been made this district is becoming backward. Since the lock-out by management and workers were force fully evicted from the mill, the four thousand employees and about twenty thousand persons dependent on them are on the verge of starvation.

Madam Chairman, through you, I demand' that this spinning mill Marella Akbarpur may be reopened and all the irregularities committed after 4th May, 1990 may be investigated by a judicial commission.

14.29 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET–GENERAL DISCUSSION–1997-98

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) – 1997-98

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS – GENERAL – 1996-97

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS GENERAL – 1994-95 *contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri L. Balaraman.

*SHRI L. BALARAMAN (Vandavasi) : Madame Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Union Budget for the year 1997-98. On behalf of the United Front Government, Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram, our Finance Minister has submitted the Budget this year. I am here to welcome this Budget and my party joins with me in doing so.

As far as this august House is concerned, for many a times, right from the beginning, from the time when 'the light of Asia'. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehu, our first Prime Minister was there, Tamil Nadu had played a significant role through the Finance Ministers from there. Late Shri R.K. Shanmugam Chettiar was the Finance Minister in Nehruji's Cabinet. Later on Late Shri T.T. Krishnamachari was our Finance Minister. Later on, Thiru. C. Subramaniam and Thiru R. Venkatraman were there as our Finance Ministers. Now we have Thiru. P. Chidambaram holding the Finance pertfolio.

The Budget presented by Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram is a welcome budget in the sense that it is welcomed by all the people from various sections of the society. The features of the budget are quite welcome and the criticism against the Budget are far less. Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram has presented his second budget in the Eleventh Lok Sabha in an appreciable way.

On the one side we find criticism that economic growth may not be achieved through this Budget. But at the same time we find the accolades the Budget gets from the industrialists and common people and appreciated by them all. Even the earlier Governments with absolute majority in this House could not submit a Budget of this kind. That was the situation then.

Tamil Meenila Congress (Moopanar) Party is one among the 13 parties that have formed a Government at the Centre. Thiru P. Chidambaram is a member of the TMC Party which is a constituent party of the ruling United Front. Through our Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram we have contributed our role. The Budget presented by our beloved Thiru. P. Chidambaram ensures the stability of this Government. It also stabilises our economy. We are very happy about this. We feel proud and we are proud of him.

In this multifaceted Budget that has several aspects, he has increased allocations to many sectors and ensured subsides to the areas where they are required. This balancing act of his is considered a big feat and people are amazed and admire him for this. Cut in duties and reduction in taxes have been announced. These cuts are not normally made by any Government. But Thiru. P. Chidambaram has managed to bring down the tax rates. He has also indicated that there will be effective finance management and thereby an efficient Administration.

---

* Translation of the speech orignally delivered in Tamil.